



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## N.C. Center for Safer Schools

Pat McCrory, Governor

Frank L. Perry, Secretary

### Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools Hammond Business Place, Raleigh March 18, 2015

#### Members

Jim MacCallum  
Tom Kilby  
Greta Metcalf  
Wendy Jordan  
Frank Perry  
Chad Rorie  
Robert Holland  
Donna White  
Evonne Moore  
Joe Pass  
Luke Stancil  
Rob Kindsvatter  
Mary Jane Ferguson  
Tyree Davis  
Chris Minard(for B.Matthews)

#### Guests

Mike Collins  
L. Welch  
Pete Locklear  
Heather Welch  
Ricky Parks  
Jeff Rink  
Doug Coley  
Barbara Leland  
Sonya Brown  
Brandy Bynum  
William Lassiter  
Sam Estridge  
Ken Gattis  
Susan Robinson  
Dennis Quick

Novella Frieslander  
Shane Woodall  
Heather Matthews  
Scott Drew  
Sai Nidamarty  
Richard Ricks  
Angela Wilson  
Nicki Artis  
Danielle Elliott  
Donna Dougherty  
Tim Hinnant  
Freddy Johnson  
Michelle Archer  
Billy Clayton  
Greg Baker

Dawn Johnson  
Pamela Boudah  
Tony Carver  
Patrick Merrill  
Mark Strickland

#### Staff

Kym Martin  
Mike Anderson  
J.R. Gorham  
Diana Kees  
Lisa Partin  
Dick Hayes

- Vice Chairman Jim MacCallum called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and introduced members of the Task Force.

Vice Chair MacCallum introduced Department of Public Safety Secretary Frank L. Perry. Secretary Perry recognized Center for Safer Schools staff members Kym Martin and Mike Anderson, along with Deputy Commissioner for Juvenile Justice William Lassiter for their commitment to making schools safer. Secretary Perry discussed that an example of this commitment was demonstrated recently when a complaint was received from the highest level of government about a situation at a school. With Mike Anderson's assistance verbal contact and intervention, a violent situation was pre-empted. Secretary Perry also discussed the involvement and availability of ISAAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center), which is headed by the SBI, in regard to preventive measures related to safer school initiatives. Secretary Perry listed as an example the prevention of a serious episode two months ago in Charlotte because of information ISAAC found on social media.

In follow-up to Secretary Perry's comments, Commissioner of Law Enforcement Gregory K. Baker underlined the usefulness of social media to foreseeing upcoming incidents. Commissioner Baker said that information from all law enforcement partners is utilized in preventing these incidents. He expressed appreciation to the task force and its subcommittees for volunteering their time toward the important topic of school safety.

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- **Executive Directors Report**

Director Martin reported that the School Resource Officer (SRO) Census Report has been finalized and the contract for the anonymous reporting student app was signed yesterday. Director Martin acknowledged and thanked the members of the SRO Association for attending the meeting as well as representatives from the iTpeople/iWatch Corp.

Four pilot counties were selected for the Anonymous Reporting App:

- 1) Avery County with two middle schools, one high school and two charter schools
- 2) Forsyth County with 36 middle and high schools
- 3) Lenoir County with four middle schools and five high schools
- 4) Wake County with 10 middle schools and 10 high schools *\*pending, could change to another county*

**Legislative update**

House Bill 380 has been introduced in the House and sent to the Senate. It is entitled "AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE SCHOOL RISK AND RESPONSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES TO OTHER SCHOOL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR GRANTS FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELORS." Director Martin will send a copy of the bill out to task force members and suggests that task force members communicate with their legislative representatives about it. The budget that supports the legislation will include positions to perform training for the Center for Safer Schools and Emergency Management. Additionally, the budget would include funding for the school grants and for statewide expansion of the student reporting app.

**Presentation of 2015 School Resource Officer Census**

Mike Anderson discussed how the study paints a true picture of who we are trying to serve, which is kindergarten through twelfth grade students.

School Safety Specialist thanked the N.C. Department of Public Instruction for assistance in gaining points of contact for school safety issues and other information from the 115 LEAs and district superintendents. As of December 2014, the Center for Safer Schools had received responses from 91 of the 115 LEAs with the names of 851 SROs and email addresses for 737 of the officers. An online survey was sent out via email on Jan. 6 and Jan. 20, 2015, which received 320 responses. The survey findings included the following information regarding SROs:

- Gender: 80 percent male and 20 percent female
- Average age: 42
- Race: 5 percent Hispanic, 17 percent Black, 77 percent White, 1 percent American Indian
- Education level: 57 percent = some level post-secondary education beyond high school diploma
- Agency type: 58 percent work in sheriff's office, 34 percent city police, 8 percent school police
- 82 percent completed SRO Basic Training
- 94 percent are conducting a lockdown drill each year
- 66 percent work in one school and 33 percent are assigned to multiple schools

- **Steering Committee Reports**

*Physical Security and Emergency Preparedness*

Chairman Robert Holland reported on topics discussed at the committee meeting this week:

- Legislative changes on school safety include requiring each school to hold an annual lockdown drill for an active shooter, with oversight given to the superintendent;
- SRO Census Report where actual SROs answered questions about their profession;
- Anonymous Tip app that will be piloted at the start of the new school year;
- The threat assessment tool should be the same across the board with the people conducting the assessment being trained and knowledgeable enough to perform the threat assessment. The committee will look at options and talk about this at the next meeting;

- Buddy Collins discussed having the ability to be able to identify sexual predators in schools. The committee will confer with district attorneys, investigators and social workers.

#### *Mental Health and Students with Special Needs*

Chairman Greta Metcalf reported that Chris Minard and her team have been asked to develop a drug and alcohol abuse prevention module for teachers and that the steering committee has been asked to contribute to that module.

- Chairman Metcalf also reported that funding cuts were projected for the School-Based Health Clinics across the state (90 across the state) and the group went to Raleigh to advocate and met with DHHS Secretary Aldona Wos and the funding has since been reinstated;
- The UNC-Greensboro Center for Youth and Family Community Partnership is developing webinars for Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health services to engage schools;
- The anonymous reporting APP will be very helpful in identifying students that may be at-risk; risk level will need to be determined to recommend appropriate services;
- Recommendations for resources to put on the Safer Schools website are needed.

#### *School Climate and Discipline (Luke Stancil reporting for Dr. Ben Matthews)*

Member Luke Stancil delivered the report in Chairman Ben Matthews' absence. The following topics were discussed at yesterday's committee meeting:

1. Conferring with educational lawyers to have a N.C. General Statute to address cyber-bullying;
2. A lengthy debate was held regarding whether school administrators should have authority to intervene with an out-of-school bullying issue;
3. A "concerned person report," which is a survey teachers can use to report on students with behavioral health or mental health problems, should be encouraged;
4. At orientation or on the first day of school staff should talk about bullying with the students.

#### • **Partnering Agency Updates**

##### *Department of Public Instruction*

Chris Minard reported in Dr. Ben Matthews' absence that the online modules DPI and its partners have been developing are a great resource linking school safety and mental health. She stated that the modules have proven very successful, with more than 15,000 teachers having taken the courses. Two of the newest courses are 1) Understanding the Role of SRO in Our Schools and 2) Understanding the Role of Schools in Suicide Prevention.

Dr. Ken Gattis reported that the FY 14-15 crime and school violence report was just completed.

#### • **Presentation of School Risk and Response Management System**

John Dorman with **N.C. Emergency Management** presented an update on the School Risk and Response Management System (SRRMS). An important component of this tool is the partnership with Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management, Center for Safer Schools, Public Instruction and also adding the 911 Board as well. SRRMS includes the digital web-based GIS-enabled school risk management planning tool and the school emergency response plan. The Community Colleges and Universities are asking to join this plan as well. Data from 44 counties has been collected so far, and 20 counties have been fully integrated into the system.

Dan Elliott, the CEO of iWatch, was introduced. His company is part of a contract to bring the anonymous reporting app for schools to fruition in North Carolina. He provided a broad introduction of the app, and how it could be branded and customized for use in schools in the four North Carolina pilot counties.

#### **Continued Partnering Agency Updates**

##### *Department of Justice*

Mark Strickland with the **N.C. Justice Academy** reported that last year more than 200 SROs were trained in basic SRO class and eight classes are scheduled for 2015.

*Department of Health and Human Services*

Rob Kindsvatter, the director of **Early Childhood Development and Early Education at DHHS**, distributed the Executive Summary regarding Pre-K. The program serves 26,800 kids in Pre-K to help them get ready for kindergarten socially and emotionally. The report showed the program made significant gains in social, emotional, language, literacy, vocabulary and behavioral skills. The General Assembly allotted an additional \$5 million for Pre-K program next year. Seventy percent of kids in the subsidy program are in four and five star facilities, with 30,000 on the subsidy wait list.

Mr. Kindsvatter reported for the first time in almost 20 years, North Carolina was successful in obtaining reauthorization for the child care development fund. Sen. Burr was instrumental in this victory. These dollars support the activities around the child care program. An additional focus on quality will be provided this year, and a requirement that policies be created around planning for reducing expulsion.

Sonya Brown with the Division of Mental Health reported that as of January more than 200 instructors were trained in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). A MHFA Symposium is planned for May for all North Carolina Instructors. The MHFA website will provide dates for local training.

Susan Robinson with the Division of Mental Health announced that the N.C. Parent Resource Center annual conference is scheduled for May 19-20 at the McKimmon Center. Ms. Robinson acknowledged Secretary Perry and Secretary Wos for opening the Crisis Intervention Training Conference sponsored by NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) in February, which brought in more than 300 participants.

*Other Partners*

Shane Woodall, President of the N.C. Association of SROs (NC ASRO) reported that 468 attended last year's annual conference for SROs held in Concord. An invitation was extended to join this year's conference July 12-17 at Sunset Beach. SROs receive 32 hours credit through the N.C. Justice Academy for attending and participating in seminars and workshops.

- **New Business**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 24 at Hammond Road in Raleigh the subcommittees and the executive committee will meet on June 23 at Hammond Road as well.

Jim MacCallum made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert Holland, and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.